



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FEDERAL SUBSCRIBER LINE CHARGE

Jefferson City (July 2, 2002)---Consumers are reminded that the federal subscriber line charge on their monthly telephone bill may be going up this month under a decision reached in June by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Created by the FCC after the break-up of AT&T in 1984, the federal subscriber line charge is designed to compensate local telephone companies for a portion of the cost of providing local telephone lines used in interstate (between states) long distance service.

The Missouri Public Service Commission has no jurisdiction over the establishment of the charge or the setting of its rate.

On June 5, 2002, the FCC issued an order which increases the federal subscriber line charge cap. Residential customers currently pay a federal subscriber line charge of \$5.00 a month for their primary telephone line. Under the FCC decision, that rate could go up to \$6.00 a month starting in July of this year and to \$6.50 in July of 2003.

The federal subscriber line charge may also be listed on customer bills as: interstate access surcharge, interstate access charge or federal end user common line charge.

Consumer questions regarding the charge should be directed to the FCC (1-888-225-5322 or website: www.fcc.gov).